However, for further improvement of this Telecom system, the following actions are taken under Mission Better Communication.

(i) Replacement of old life expired electromechanical system.

(ii) Replacement of worn-out and faulty underground cables.

(iii) Replacement of old telephone instruments.

(iv) Replacement of heavy overhead lines by underground cables.

(v) Provisions of drop wire for subscriber line.

(vi) Introduction of stable transmission media such as Micro-wave, Co-axial cables, Optical fibre cables for connecting different parts of the country.

(vii) Introduction of Electronic exchanges in different parts of the country.

Opening of new post offices in Orissa

1329. SHRI BAIKUNTHANATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted ban on the opening of new post offices;

(b) if so, the number of new post offices opened in different parts of the country since the ban is lifted;

(c) whether Government have opened any new post office in Orissa since then; and

(d) if so, the number thereof and how many of these post offices opened in the rural areas and particularly the tribal districts like Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundergarh etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) There was no ban on opening new post offices. There is a ban on creation of new posts However, posts required for implementation of Plan Scheme such as opening of new post offices, are sanctioned with the aprpoval of Ministry of Finance. Under this arrangement so far, 914 new post offices have been opened.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) 16 new post offices have been opened in Orissa out of which 15 have been opened in rural areas. The number of post offices opened in tribal areas is 12.

Power shortage

1330. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of power shortage in the country during the period April to December, 1987, Statewise; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government for becoming self-sufficient in power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(b) The measures being taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of new generation capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures and arranging trasfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.

Statement

Statewise percentage Power shortage during April-Dec., 1987

State/System	%Shortage
Chandigarh	0.3
Haryana	12.4
Delhi	1.5
H.P.	0.3
Jammu & Kashmir	6.8
Punjab Including NFF	6.8
Rajasthan	10.9
Uttar Pradesh	16.5
NORTHERN REGION	10.9
Gujarat	4.3
Madhya Pradesh	3.0
Maharashtra	6.8
Goa	..
WESTERN REGION	5.2
Andhra Pradesh	10.4
Karnataka	30.5
Tamil Nadu	11.8
Kerala	16.1
SOUTHERN REGION	17.0
Bihar	20.6
D.V.C.	8.9
Orissa	17.0
West Bengal	7.6
EASTERN REGION	12.7
NORTH-EASTERN REGION	4.8
ALL-INDIA	11.0

Comparative performance of different electricity boards

1331. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) comparative state-wise details of Plant Load Factor, quantum of generation/distribution and also the consumption of major inputs (in rupees per unit) like coal/oil in each of the last three years and the current year, in electricity generation;

(b) if there is substantial difference between performance of different Electricity Boards, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) comparative statewise figures of losses in transmission and distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The required information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Percentage Transformation, Transmission and distribution Losses (including Comml. Losses in State Elect. Boards/Electricity Departments.

Region	State Electricity Board/Department	Percentage T&D Losses including unaccounted Comml. Losses (Such as Pilferage etc.)		
		1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Northern Region	1. Haryana	19.84	20.62	25.43
	2. Himachal Pradesh	20.22	21.01	21.65
	3. Jammu & Kashmir	35.65	33.50	N.A.
	4. Punjab	18.82	17.01	18.39
	5. Rajasthan	26.54	23.94	21.00